

# Ken's Korner Newsletter



Committed to HIV/AIDS Advocacy

April 2005



## Agency Announcements

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** The CDC National AIDS Hotline is now CDC-INFO. The number is 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636).

**Project HOPE:** Please join the Advisory Board for an afternoon of discussion, planning and progress. The next meeting will be held Thursday, May 12 at 1:30. The location is Goodwill Industries on Grand River in Detroit. For more information please contact Kenneth Pape at (313) 456-1678.

**HIV/AIDS Advocacy Services:** The Mandated Reporter's Resource Guide is now available. The guide details the procedure for reporting child abuse or neglect. If you are a mandated reporter, such as social worker or nurse, please contact Kenneth Pape at (313) 456-1678 or e-mail at [papek@michigan.gov](mailto:papek@michigan.gov) to request a copy. Consult your supervisor if you are unsure if you are a mandated reporter.

**AIDS Partnership Michigan (APM):** "Knowledge is Power" bracelets can now be purchased for a suggested donation of \$2.00 each. All proceeds will benefit the programs of APM. Please visit [www.aidspartnership.org](http://www.aidspartnership.org) for ordering information.

### ***Do you have announcements?***

E-mail them to Desiree Sanders ([sandersd2@michigan.gov](mailto:sandersd2@michigan.gov)) or Kenneth Pape ([papek@michigan.gov](mailto:papek@michigan.gov)) by the first Monday of the month.

### **Contact**

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# April is STD Awareness Month

Facts about sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the United States

- ❖ 75% of all STDs occur in people 25 years of age or younger.
- ❖ Cervical cancer in women is linked to a high-risk type of Human Papillomavirus (HPV).
- ❖ 1 in 4 Americans has genital herpes, but 80% are not aware they have herpes.
- ❖ 1 in 4 Americans will contract an STD at some point during their life.
- ❖ Herpes is the most common STD in the United States.
- ❖ Hepatitis B (HBV) is 100 times more infectious than HIV.
- ❖ Less than half of people ages 18 to 44 have been tested for an STD other than HIV.

## Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)

- ❖ An estimated 70-90% of people living with HIV have had or currently have HBV.
- ❖ HBV is transmitted through unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex. Sharing of needles and other drug injection equipment is also a mode of transmission.
- ❖ HBV causes inflammation of the liver. Chronic HBV can lead to cirrhosis (scarring of the liver) and cancer.
- ❖ 90% of injection drug users with HIV have had or currently have HBV.
- ❖ Symptoms of HBV include yellowing of the skin and eyes, fatigue, abdominal pain and dark urine.
- ❖ HBV vaccine and condoms are highly effective in preventing HBV transmission.

## Herpes

- ❖ An estimated 50-60% of people living with HIV have herpes.
- ❖ Genital herpes is contracted by direct skin-to-skin contact during vaginal, anal or oral sex.
- ❖ Symptoms of genital herpes include sores, blisters or pimples around the vagina, penis and anus, itching and burning of the genitals, and pain in the genital area.
- ❖ The presence of open sores associated with genital herpes increases a person's risk of contracting HIV or transmitting the virus to others.

Sources: [hivinsite.ucsf.edu](http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu)

*HIV Plus, April 2005*

American Social Health Association



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### ***Did You Know?***

Consumer Reports recently tested the strength and reliability of 23 brands of condoms. The test consisted of inflating the condoms with air until they burst and measuring the amount of air held. The top three brands and models are...

1. Durex: Extra Sensitive Lubricated
2. Durex: Performax Lubricated
3. LifeStyles: Classic Collection Ultra Sensitive Lubricated

For more information and to check the performance of your favorite brand and model, visit [www.ConsumerReports.org](http://www.ConsumerReports.org).



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### **STD Assesment**

If you're wondering if you should be tested for an STD, here are the recommendations from the University of Michigan Health Service:

--If you experience symptoms:

- unusual discharge
- painful or burning with urination
- genital skin changes (rash, sore, blister, growths)
- pelvic discomfort or pain (women)
- testicular pain (men).

(Note: A person who has an STD may not experience any symptoms and there are other causes of these symptoms.)

--An assessment is also recommended if you think you may have been exposed, or may be at risk of exposing others, to an STD.

--Women who are sexually active are advised to have an annual gynecological exam, which may include a pap smear and chlamydia test.

--Men who are sexually active are advised to have an STD assessment, as needed. See recommendations above.

Source: [http://www.uhs.umich.edu/services/std\\_assess.html](http://www.uhs.umich.edu/services/std_assess.html)

To find the closest treatment sites call: **CDC's National STD Hotline at 1-800-227-8922**



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### Social Workers: You Rock!!

**“Hollywood big brains—executives, producers, directors and writers—seem to recognize only three occupations when they develop dramatic television series: doctors, lawyers and police officers. Hollywood needs to look to social workers for heroes.”** Gregory Kane, *Baltimore Sun*, 9/03/03

March was Social Work Month, and the National Association of Social Workers kicked off a new campaign with the theme “Social Workers. Help Starts Here.” They also began their National Social Work Public Education Campaign in an effort to spread awareness about the social work profession, and to honor and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of social workers.

Marianne Udow, Director of the Department of Human Services of Michigan, took the opportunity to recognize the vital role that social workers play in Michigan “...they help thousands of people every year in many different ways. Without their tireless work, many of our citizens would be destitute or facing severe hardships.”

For more information about Social Work Month, NASW's National Social Work Public Education Campaign, or the press kit to promote the campaign visit:  
**[www.nasw.dc.org](http://www.nasw.dc.org)** or email: [media@naswdc.org](mailto:media@naswdc.org)

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## Congratulations Merry

April 2, 2005 marked the last day of work for Merry Gastambide of the Michigan Department of Community Health. Merry has been with the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Intervention Section (HAPIS) for nearly 9 years. For the last 8 years she has dutifully worked under the title of Michigan DAP/MDP Coordinator. Merry has shown great devotion to and respect for the HIV community in her work. And she will be greatly missed.

Merry will now take on a new role at the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Lansing. Merry will undoubtedly show the same compassion and dedication in her new role as a Wish Manager. She will be involved in the logistics of making the wishes of terminal ill children become a reality. The Make-A-Wish Foundation has truly gained a compassionate person and professional.

Merry would like to remind all of you that she has worked with great people and still cares about the cause. Please wish her your best as she pursues her new endeavor.